Counterfeit Currency Under 'Topac' Scheme

2966. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of reports that ISI of Pakistan is engaged in printing counterfeit Indian currency in huge quantity to flood Indian market with such currency under a scheme code name 'Topac'.

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to reports that a Pakistan deployment posted with the Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu was caught red handed by the Nepal police with counterfeit Indian Currency recently; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government to check ISI activities from endangering Indian economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of reports that Pakistan is engaged in the printing of counterfeit Indian currency.

A staff member of the Pakistan Embassy in Nepal was caught red handed in Kathmandu in January 2000 while passing off counterfeit Indian currency to an undercover officer of the Nepal police. Government of Nepal asked the Pakistani Staff member to leave the country within 72 hours on account of his involvement in an activity incompatible with his status.

Government remain vigilant about these activities.

Pakistan's attitude over Kashmir issue

2967. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan's Military ruler has asked Islamic countries to exert political and economic pressure on India to resolve the Kashmir issue as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6th March, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to expose Pakistan's such attitude in the international fora; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (d) Pakistan habitually and routinely indulges in hostile propagandist statements against India especially on OIC fora and with member States of the organisation to promote anti-India sentiments. Government have effectively and appropriately brought to the